

REMARKS

Claims 9-11 and 22-42 have been previously cancelled. Claims 4 and 5 have been withdrawn from consideration and are hereby cancelled from the present invention. The claims remaining in the application are 1-3, 6-8, and 12-21.

Response to Election Requirements

The Examiner is correct that dependent claim 4 appears to be part of the Species II grouping. Dependent claim 5, however, is part of Species I grouping. There may have been some confusion since the claim discusses “camera movement” for the scanning units, however, it is clear that the “camera” in claim 5 is the sensor unit in the scanners. See, for example, Figure 6 and the Part List on page 16, which show and describe part 40 as a “first image-forming subsystem (camera).” The same comments apply to dependent claims 13, 17, and 18, which refer to parts of the “image-forming subsystem” which are clearly shown in Figures 1-10.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-3, 6-12, 14-16 and 19-21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the Nakajima et al. ('841) reference in view of the Abbott et al. ('723) reference.

The Examiner states that Abbott '723 shows a USB-compliant interface capable of supplying power and data transmission. Although the USB-1 interface was capable of supplying power to peripherals, it was very low power and it is debatable whether it could have powered a lamp and motor in a platen scanner. The standards for the USB-2 interface were not approved until April 2000, and the Abbott '723 application was filed in November 1999. Thus, it is arguable whether or not the “data cable” shown by Abbott '723 could have in fact powered a flat bed scanner.

The statement in the Office Action with respect to claim 6 is not understood. There is no first scanning unit 100 in Figure 5, and no main control unit 300 in Figure 1. It is not understood how Figures 1 and 5 of Nakajima et al.

can be read to show that “first scanning unit and second scanning unit share a common host address on said computer.”

The limitation for the control and image processing electronics in the first scanning unit to handle “data control and camera movement for both said first scanning unit and said second scanning unit” is not found in the prior art references, either individually or in combination. As discussed above this limitation, previously in claim 5, but now incorporated in independent claim 1, is clearly a feature of Species I. See page 11, lines 24-28.

The Examiner states that the ADF type image reading unit shown in Nakajima et al. has a “double-sided scanning function.” This is not correct. Referring to Figure 3 of Nakajima et al., and to column 5, lines 52-61, it is clear that the document scanner has only one image reading sensor 116. The other sensors shown in Figure 3, sensor 112 and sensor 115 are used by the document transport system, but are not “image sensors.” It is also worth noting that the Nakajima et al. patent is for a facsimile machine and not for a document scanner used to transfer images to a computer.

CONCLUSION

Dependent claims not specifically addressed add additional limitations to the independent claims, which have been distinguished from the prior art and are therefore also patentable.

In conclusion, none of the prior art cited by the Office Action discloses the limitations of the claims of the present invention, either individually or in combination. Therefore, it is believed that the claims are allowable.

If the Examiner is of the opinion that additional modifications to the claims are necessary to place the application in condition for allowance, he is invited to contact Applicant's attorney at the number listed below for a telephone interview and Examiner's amendment.

Respectfully submitted,



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If the Examiner is unable to reach the Applicant(s) Attorney at the telephone number provided, the Examiner is requested to communicate with Eastman Kodak Company Patent Operations at (585) 477-4656.